

PRESS RELEASE



The Cleveland Museum of Art

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A GOLDEN AGE OF AMERICAN PRINTMAKING
January 12 - April 11, 1982

Between 1900 and 1950, American artists were enthusiastic printmakers. Their works, as displayed in A Golden Age of American Printmaking in the galleries of the Prints and Drawings department, mirror the diversity and vitality of a growing society. Jane Glaubinger, assistant in the department, has chosen from the Museum's permanent collection more than fifty lithographs, etchings, aquatints, woodcuts, wood engravings, and drypoints.

The exhibition comprises a variety of styles. While cubism and expressionism inspired such artists as Alexander Archipenko and Max Weber, the realism of John Steuart Curry and Thomas Hart Benton was more consistent with American tastes of the period. These Midwestern artists favored straightforward commonplace rural scenes, executed in lithography, a medium which preserves the directness of drawing.

Many other realists chronicled urban life. Works like Charles Sheeler's spare, geometric images of factories appear as emblems of industrial precision and efficiency. Prints like Gerald Geerling's Black Magic (1928) romanticize the atmosphere of a shimmering New York evening. Edward Hopper and others evoke the bleaker aspects of fast-growing American cities: images of loneliness and alienation, biting satires of cultural snobs, representations of unsavory people and places. John Sloan, Reginald March, and Paul Cadmus are among the nearly forty artists whose works are included in the exhibition. All are personal, yet distinctly American visions.

Gallery talks on the exhibition will be given on March 17 and 21 at 1:30 pm.

For additional information or photographs, please contact the Public Relations Office, The Cleveland Museum of Art, 11150 East Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio 44106; 216/421-7340.